

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10328 062244Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAA-01 /078 W  
-----037526 072219Z /75

R 061235Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2605  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJECT: CHARAN SINGH DIRECTS PERSONAL ATTACK AT PM DESAI  
OVER KANTIBHAI

RERF: NEW DELHI 10278

1. BATTLE LINES IN THE JANATA OVER THE CHARAN SINGH AFFAIR REMAIN  
HARDENED AND NEITHER SIDE SEEMS IN A MOOD TO BUDGE FROM ITS  
ADAMANT POSITION. RETURNING FROM A VISIT WITH J.P. NARAYAN IN  
PATNA, PARTY PRESIDENT CHANDRA SHEKHAR RULED OUT THE QUESTION  
OF MEDIATION OR ARBITRATION BY J.P. OR ANY OTHER ELDER FIGURE IN  
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10328 062244Z

ORDER TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS. ALSO, THE JANATA LEADERSHIP HAS  
MAINTAINED ITS DECISION TO SEEK THE OUSTER OF CHARAN SINGH LOYALIST  
DEVI LAL AS CHIEF MINISTER OF HARYANA. AT THE SAME TIME, AN  
AGGRIEVED CHARAN SINGH HAS STEPPED UP HIS OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE  
PRIME MINISTER. THE FORMER HOME MINISTER TOLD HIS SUPPORTERS  
JULY 5 THAT MORARJI WAS "ANNOYED" WHEN HE (CHARAN SINGH) SUGGESTED  
LAST MARCH THAT A COMMISSION BE APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

AFFAIRS OF HIS SON KANTIBHAI. HE ALLEGED THAT THE PM HAD BRUSHED ASIDE THIS SUGGESTION. CHARAN SINGH IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE REMARKED BITTERLY THAT "THE PERSON WHOM I INSTALLED AS PRIME MINISTER HAS TREATED ME LIKE A CHAPRASSI (PEON). DESAI BECAME PRIME MINISTER THROUGH THE FLICK OF MY PEN". (THIS REMARK REFERS TO THE CONTEST FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP IN MARCH LAST YEAR BETWEEN DESAI AND JAGJIVAN RAM. CHARAN SINGH WROTE A LETTER TO J.P. NARAYAN THROWING THE SUPPORT OF HIS BLD FACTION BEHIND MORARJI. ON THE BASIS OF THIS LETTER, J.P. AND ACHARYA KRIPALANI "SELECTED" DESAI AS PM.)

2. THE INDIAN WIRE SERVICES REPORT THAT SHYAM NANDAN MISHRA RESIGNED THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 6) AS DEPUTY LEADER OF THE JANATA PARTY IN THE LOK SABHA. ORIGINALLY FROM THE CONGRESS (O), MISHRA HAS LONG NURSED A GRIEVANCE AGAINST PM DESAI FOR EXCLUDING HIM FROM THE CABINET LAST YEAR. IN RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS BEEN A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF AND SOMETIMES APPOINTED AGENT FOR CHARAN SINGH. MISHRA'S RESIGNATION WAS ANTICIPATED HERE; OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED AS DEPUTY LEADER ANYWAY IN THE FORTH-COMING ROUND OF FRESH ELECTIONS TO THE JANATA PARLIAMENTARY PARTY BECAUSE OF HIS TOTAL IDENTIFICATION WITH CHARAN SINGH.

3. DESPITE THIS BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THE PM AND CHARAN SINGH AND CHANDRA SHEKHAR'S REJECTION OF ARBITRATION, EFFORTS CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE A RECONCILIATION. JANATA ELDERS STATESMAN KRIPALANI HAS OFFERED HIS SERVICES. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 10328 062244Z

FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE AND INDUSTRIES MINISTER FERNANDES INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS. JANATA GENERAL SECRETARY MADHU LIMAYE, A FORMER SOCIALIST WITH CLOSE LINKS TO CHARAN SINGH, QUICKLY JUMPED INTO THE FRAY UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE U.S. AND HAS TAKEN UP THE ROLE OF PEACE-MAKER. NONETHELESS, OUR SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THAT A FINAL PARTING OF THE WAYS WITH CHARAN SINGH MAY BE IMMINENT AND COULD OCCUR AS SOON AS JULY 11, WHEN THE JANATA'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TO CONSIDER DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST FORMER HEALTH MINISTER RAJ NARAIN. IF, AS SOME BELIEVE, HE IS OUSTED FROM THE PARTY, CHARAN SINGH MAY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO STAND BY HIS PROTEGE AND QUIT THE JANATA AS WELL.

4. THE REMOVAL OF DEVI LAL AS CHIEF MINISTER OF HARYANA NOW SEEMS LIKELY. SIX NON-BLD MINISTERS HAVE RESIGNED FROM HIS CABINET AND DEMANDED HIS DISMISSAL. 46 OF THE 78 JANATA MLA'S IN THE HARYANA ASSEMBLY HAVE MADE A SIMILAR DEMAND, BUT DEVI LAL CONTINUES TO STONEWALL AGAINST THESE EFFORTS.

5. AS FOR CHARAN SINGH'S CHARGES (CONTAINED IN THE JUNE 28 STATEMENT WHICH CAUSED HIS DOWNFALL) THAT THE GOVT WAS LAX IN PROSECUTING MRS. GANDHI, REPORTS HAVE SURFACED IN TODAY'S PRESS

THAT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI) MAY SOON FILE A  
CASE AGAINST HER IN CONNE TION WITH THE SO-CALLED "JEEP CASE".  
THIS WQASONE OF THE TWO CASES ON THE BASIS OF WHICH MRS. GANDHI  
WAS ARRESTED LAST OCTOBER AND INVOLVES THE QUESTIONABLE PROCURE-  
MENT OF 80 JEEPS FROM A BOMBAY FIRM DURING LAST YEAR'S LOK  
SABHA ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AT THAT TIME THE GOVT'S CASE WAS DIS-  
MISSED BY A MAGISTRATE ON THE GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT  
EVIDENCE  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE10328  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780279-1022  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (SINGH, CHARAN), (DESAI, MORARJI)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014